

# We Da Waiwai

## Loke Aloua

*Mo'okū'auhau*

Who you? Where you from?

Who me? I one Hoapili.

Kauoha-bound kia'i to loko

An oath you can't let go, no.

*Waiwai stirs the soul.*

Mahi i'a, wen da fish we raise is for loko, kânaka, and Kanaloa.

Hui, mai poina, no foget' those old ways!

Pāpā told me, "No can eat money"

Kapu Kanaloa.

Remember that pilina

Held on through change by kūpuna during onslaught of foreign ways

Wea da kia'i stay?

*Menehune*

Early morning, late night cloaked by darkness

Removing invasives, protecting Kanaloa, it's a constant fight choking waiwai.

Like foreign badge, ranger, laws, authority bar us from setting waiwai, us kia'i, our *ea* free!

Someone yells, "ho, duck low, look da flashlight!"

End up just one lawai'a passing by.

Those adda' guys dey no scare me.

Lock us up, throw away da key!

We are *kia'i*.

*Kani ka pū*

Dig deep

Feet kiss kelekele feel Papa's heartbeat.

Removing decades of lepo when our people were forced to leave.

Clogging pūnāwai bugga no can breathe.

If no can breathe how you goin' eat?

No wai, no *waiwai*!  
 Waiwai calls on our  
 Courage to have foresight  
 Discipline for hard times  
 Bigger than I for we.  
 Reclaiming hands to 'āina touch her tenderly, mindfully, that wahi you feel  
 Das *us*.  
 We are 'āina.  
 She is we.

*Hūlalilali*  
 Living kahiko  
 Birthing mo'olelo  
 Creators our story will be told.  
 Names unleashed beneath kou trees, salty mist coats lips, sweat drips.  
 Mo'o slither on blankets of yellow heart leaves while 'āma cling kua side.  
 Those stones we stack no wait for permits and permission to act.  
 We are *Kaiāulu*.  
 Taking our Hawai'i back.

*Hō'ailona*  
 I see a shimmering sea  
 Filled with waiwai old timers speak.  
 One throw, pau fish, go home, share, kaukau, 'au'au, sleep.  
 Nobody go hungry, life is sweet!  
 Take what need, set the rest free.  
 Nets rip from big fish, not catching pōhaku in an empty sea.  
 Wa'a reclaiming ocean side  
 Ko'a fed, regenerating.  
 Limu blossoming beyond da maka can see bugga form one thick sheet.  
 Those fisheries that sound so waiwai no can believe,  
 That's where we going be, but you gotta believe, have the courage to dream.  
 Remember the mo'olelo, those kūpuna who made we.  
 We are *waiwai*.  
 Dream.

**Loke Aloua** is a kama'āina from the Kona District on Hawai'i Island. Her lineage binds her to Hawai'i and Maui. She is a *kia'i loko* for Kaloko Loko I'a.